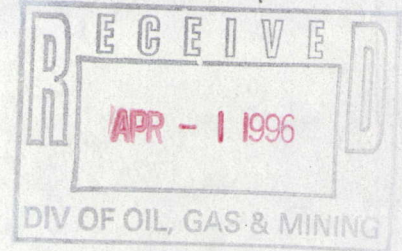




United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office
324 South State, Suite 301
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2303



IN REPLY REFER TO:

3592.1(c)(10)
(UT-920)

MAR 29 1996

State of Utah
Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Water Quality
Attn: Mr. Lyle W. Scott
288 North 1460 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

Re: White River Oil Shale Mine Closure Plan,
Duchesne County, Utah

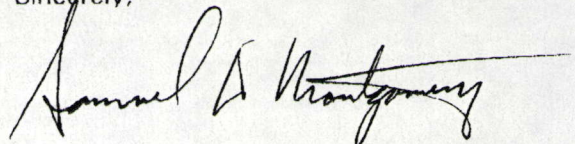
Dear Mr. Stott:

We have verified a continuing generation of methane gas in the mine and must take that into consideration in the mine closure plan at the White River Oil Shale mine. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is investigating alternative methods for sealing the mine. At the present time there are nine conceptual options that we are considering. In order to investigate two of the options further, BLM is requesting information from your office. Some of the methods involve using fly-ash. The closest source of the fly-ash would be the Bonanza power plant. We have the following questions:

1. Do the constituents in the fly-ash from the Bonanza power plant represent an environmental hazard to the Birds Nest aquifer if they were to be used as:
 - a. Fill for the mine in a slurry form using water?
 - b. A component for a cement mixture (95 percent fly-ash and 5 percent cement) for a structural plug in the bottom of the shafts?
2. Do the constituents in the fly-ash/bottom ash mixture from the Bonanza power plant represent an environmental hazard with the Birds Nest aquifer if they were to be used in a water/fly-ash slurry to fill the mine?

We anticipate to have all options analyzed by mid-April 1996; therefore, an early response will be appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Stan Perkes of my staff at (801) 539-4036.

Sincerely,


for Douglas M. Koza
Deputy State Director, Natural Resources

cc: Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
(Attention: Mr. Lowell Braxton)